(b) SAIL has planned to finance about 50% of the future investments through internally generated resources.

(c) SAIL has not taken any budgetary support from the Government since 1986-87.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Setting up Iron and Steel Plants

1606. SHRI IQBAL SINGH : Will th< Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have identified the places in the country particularly in the State of Punjab to set up iron and steel plants; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) and (b) Government issued a set of "Guidelines for Entrepreneurs in Iron and Steel Industry" in October, 1992. These Guidelines have indentified 25 possible sites in the country having potential for setting up new iron and steel projects and coke making plants. These include 2 in Andhra Pradesh, 2 in Bihar, 1 in Goa, 3 in Gujarat, 2 in Karnataka, 3 in Maharashtra, 6 in Madhya Pradesh, 3 in Orissa, 1 in Uttar Pradesh and 2 in West Bengal. No specific location has been identified in the State of Punjab. However, it has been stated in the Guidelines that steel plants (EAF-Rolling Mill) can be set up in any location close to a port, or a sponge iron plant or near a potential market depending on the availability of scrap, sponge iron, electricity & market-It has also been emphasised in the Guidelines that the list of possible sites is only an indicative list.

Shortage of Steel Products in Sail

1607. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether shortage of steel products have been noticed in the accounting of Steel Authority of India Limited although balance Sheets were prepared dutiug the past three years without accounting for the steej shortage;

(b) whether the Chartered Accountants have also pinpointed the defaults; arid

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) No, Sir. No shortages beyond allowable limits have been noticed in the accounts of SAIL.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Doss not arise.

Newspaper Report on IISCO Scam

1608. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA :

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item captioned "IISCO scam, steel worth Rs. 88 lakhs missing" which appeared in "The Hindustan Times" dated the 29th November, 1994; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Governments reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) No such news item-appeared in "The Hindustan Times" on 29(h November, 1994 though there was such an item in "The Stateman" dated 29th November, 1994.

(b) The news item has made a reference to the alleged missing saleable steel stocks in IISCO having regard to the figures under Schedule 6 & 7 of IISCO's annual accounts for 1993-94.

The annual accounts of IISCO are prepared in accordance with the Schedule VI of the Companies Act, 1956 as amended from time to time.

The difference in figures of saleable steel stocks mentioned in the news item is app* arcntly based on arithmetical calculation of the figures indicated under Schdeule-6 (Production) and Schedule-7 (Opening Stock, Sales and Closing Stock) of IISCO's accounts for 1993-94. However, for reconciliation purposes, steel quantities which have not